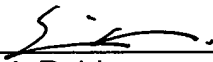


REMARKS

Claims 1-9 were pending in the present application, prior to the above amendment. Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 8 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 8 and 9 are now pending, of which claim 1 is independent. Examination on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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